

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 031271

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 3782 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
WARSAW 6 FEBRUARY 76.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 03782

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: IRAQI PERMREP'S REMARKS ON UNESCO MEETING IN
WARSAW RE PRESERVATION HISTORIC SITES.

1. IN CHANCE CONVERSATION WITH DELOFF, IRAQI PERMREP
TO UNESCO (AZIZ ALHAJ ALIHIDAR) BROACHED SUBJECT
MEETING. HE ASKED IF US HAD ANY "SURPRISES" TO RAISE
AT SUBJECT MEETING. TO DELOFF'S COUNTER THAT US HOPED
FOR SERIOUS MEETING DEVOTED TO SUBJECT MATTER AND IN-
DEED WISHED TO AVOID DIVISIVE ISSUES OF POLITICAL
NATURE, IRAQI REPLIED THAT ARABS DID NOT INTEND FOR
THEIR PART TO RAISE POLITICAL ISSUES, THAT IRAQI DEL.
IN WHICH HE WOULD PARTICIPATE, COMPRISED OF TECHNICAL
EXPERTS AND THAT ARABS WISHED TO KEEP MEETING FOCUSED
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ON PURELY TECHNICAL ISSUES. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT

IF ANY INITIATIVE WAS MADE BY THE ISRAELIS TO
"LEGITIMIZE" ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF JERUSALEM, THE
ARABS WOULD REACT "VIOLENTLY".

2. NEVERTHELESS, HIS REMARKS SUGGEST POSSIBILITY THAT
THEIR OR OTHER ARAB INTERVENTIONS MIGHT WELL INCLUDE
PROFORMA CRITICISM OF ISRAELI EXCAVATIONS, ALTHOUGH
HIS MAIN POINT SEEMED INTENDED TO CONVEY THAT ARABS
WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT SEEK TO AMEND TEXT OF DRAFT
RECOMMENDATION ITSELF. RE DRAFT.RECOMMENDATION TEXT,
IRAQI SAID ARABS SATISFIED WITH AND SUPPORT RECOMMENDA-
TION AS IT STANDS.

3. COMMENT: ALIHIDAR IS' ALONG WITH ALGERIAN PERMREP
HERE A KEY PROPONENT OF HARDLINE AND CONFRONTATION
TACTICS ON EVERY ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE. FURTHER HE DOES
NOT READILY ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE OF EVEN THE MOST IN-
FORMAL KIND WITH MEMBERS OF US PERMDEL. THEREFORE,
HIS RAISING OF WARSAW MEETING AND VOLUNTEERING THAT
ARABS ALLEGEDLY WILL NOT PROVOKE ANY CONFRONTATION,
MAY BE HOPEFUL SIGN THAT MAJOR CONTROVERSY CAN BE
AVOIDED. PERMDEL WOULD NEVERTHELESS STRESS THAT ARAB
"FOREBEARANCE" WILL NOT LIKELY REPEAT WILL NOT LIKELY
PRECLUDE THEIR MAKING VERY HARSH REMARKS ABOUT ISRAELI
EXCAVATIONS IN ARAB STATEMENTS MADE IN FORMAL DEBATE
OF SUBJECT MEETING OR AT POINT IN DISCUSSIONS WHEN
JERUSALEM MIGHT BE A MOST "APPROPRIATE" CASE IN POINT
OF EITHER EXCAVATIONS OR DANGERS POSED BY URBANE RE-
NEWAL OR MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS TO HISTORIC SITES.

4. EVEN THOUGH PLO, UNDER EXISTING UNESCO PROCEDURE,
COULD ATTEND SUBJECT MEETING IN OBSERVER CAPACITY,
SO FAR THERE IS NO INDICATION, EITHER FROM UNESCO
SECRETARIAT SOURCES OR ARAB SOURCES THAT THEY PLAN TO
ATTEND.
RUSH UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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